

White Paper

About NASCIO

- NASCIO is a non-partisan, non-profit national association representing the 50 state chief information officers (CIOs).
- NASCIO's mission is to shape national IT policy through collaborative partnerships, information sharing, and knowledge transfer across jurisdictions and disciplines.
- NASCIO's membership also includes representatives of more than 80 major corporations that provide IT solutions to states.
- Federal, municipal, and international government IT leaders may participate in the organization as associate members.
- NASCIO holds two educational conferences annually.

About NASCIO APD Reform

- In July 2002, NASCIO testified on Advance Planning Document (APD) reform before the House Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy.
- NASCIO is coordinating the development of proposals to streamline and simplify the APD process to the benefit of the states and federal government.
- NASCIO encourages improved coordination among Congress, GAO and the states to foster improved guidance and efficiency within the APD process.

Federal IT Funding Reform

Breaking Down Silos:

NASCIO members work to break down “silos” in state government IT. Many state CIOs use resource funds from a discretionary pool of money to deliver innovative solutions with enterprise-wide value. However, federal funding still flows to states with restrictive conditions that impede the rollout of enterprise-wide digital government.

For example, the Commonwealth of Kentucky deployed systems that offer common front-end in-take for recipients of several federally funded programs for needy families. Kentucky had to request special permission from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to move select pieces of information – each held confidentially by various federal health agencies – through a common infrastructure.

Cost Allocation Guidance For Enterprise Projects:

Another concern is the lack of guidance from federal agencies on how states should allocate shared costs across multiple federal programs. This lack of direction creates an impediment for states to extend project timelines, thereby increasing costs, and ultimately discouraging states from seeking greater efficiencies from federal programs.

For example, in February 2001, New York State made an initial request for approval to HHS and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a project to modernize and consolidate several out-of-date human services networks. This project supported 13 federal programs. Eighteen months elapsed before New York received final approval due primarily to delays in reaching an agreement with HHS on a cost allocation methodology. During that time, changes in technology occurred that then required revisions to the original project. Today, the project is an excellent example of state/federal collaboration and proving to be a great success.

APD Reform:

Last July, NASCIO was asked by Rep. Tom Davis (VA) to testify before the House Subcommittee on Technology and Procurement Policy about these concerns. Rep. Davis has since asked NASCIO to coordinate the development of proposals to reform the Advance Planning Document (APD) process.

Next Steps

As millions of new federal dollars are spent on IT to support public safety, public health and emergency managers on the frontlines of homeland security, flexible federal guidelines and an improved APD process could greatly improve the return on every federal dollar spent on information systems. This flexibility will prevent the creation of new “stovepiped” systems in states that would only have to be integrated at greater costs in the future. **We encourage Congress to work with states and the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) to develop acceptable guidelines that foster responsibility and efficiency.**